

10/615,002
KPG 01253 US
Page 9

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 27, 2004. Following entry of this Amendment, claims 67-102 are pending in this application. Claims 1-66 have been cancelled. Claims 67-102 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

Amendments to the Specification

As noted by the Examiner, Applicants mistakenly identified the location of two replacement paragraphs in the Amendments to the Specification section of the Amendment filed on August 13, 2004. Applicants request with this Amendment that the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 1 of the original Specification be replaced with the paragraph as amended above. In the Amendment filed on August 13, 2004, this paragraph was mistakenly identified as replacing the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 1 of the original Specification. Applicants also request that the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 18 of the original Specification be replaced with the paragraph as amended above. In the Amendment filed on August 13, 2004, this paragraph was mistakenly identified as replacing the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 8 of the original Specification.

Amendments to the Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 9, 12 and 21 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claims 67, 101, and 102 encompass the subject matter that was previously claimed in claims 9, 12, and 21, respectively. Claims 68-100 depend upon claim 67 and recite further aspects of the invention. These new claims do not introduce new matter as they are supported the originally filed claims.

UK 1,431,462 (UK '462) does not report a process in which a printing plate precursor comprising a negative working oleophilic image forming layer including at least one polymeric material having a hydroxyl, acrylate or methacrylate moiety (such as a polymer derived from phenol, e.g. Novolak or resole resin) is imagewise contacted with an acid

10/615,002
KPG 01253 US
Page 10

catalyst and thermally treated so that the polymeric material undergoes a crosslinking reaction. Instead UK '462 reports a method in which an acid is applied to commercial alkyd resins of polyvalent alcohols, such as alkyd resins derived from phthalic acid anhydride/benzoic acid and polyhydric alcohols, or polymers that contain N-methylol-ether groups to form a relief image. See page 3, line 126 to page 4, line 5, and page 4, lines 125-127 of UK '462. These embodiments of UK '462 are referred to as the "acid crosslinking embodiments".

Though Damme 2003/0005833 (Damme '838) reports a method for the preparation of a negative working lithographic printing plate in which a dissolution inhibitor is imagewise ink-jet applied onto an image forming layer containing phenolic resins, there is no motivation to modify the polymers in the acid crosslinking embodiments of UK '462 with the image forming layer of Damme '838.

Damme '838 reports the use of two types of dissolution inhibitor compounds, neither of which include an acid. Furthermore, the dissolution inhibitors of Damme '838 do not crosslink a polymeric material such that the polymeric material undergoes a sufficient crosslinking reaction to cause the imagewise contacted portions of the image forming layer to become less developable in a developer liquid than portions of the image forming layer that are not contacted with the catalyst. Instead, the dissolution inhibitors of Damme '838 reportedly insolubilize imaged portions of the image forming layer by forming hydrogen bonds.

10/615,002
KPG 01253 US
Page 11

Conclusion

All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request a notice to that effect.

Respectfully Submitted,

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